

CNI
CHURCH
NEWS
IRELAND

Give women more say in the church - former President McAleese - see page 10

BUY A BRICK FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

Belfast Central Mission (BCM) has begun fund raising activity for Copelands - its state of the art dementia



centre in Millisle, County Down. BCM needs to raise £1.5 million to help build the centre.

Copelands will be a state of the art centre for those living with dementia, enabling older people to live a full and active life within a protective and caring environment. BCM are asking people to [buy a brick](#) and make Copelands a reality for those who need it.

As part of BCM's mission to care for older people in Northern Ireland Copelands will be a flagship project; an exemplar model providing market leading care for NI. Copelands will address the needs of people with dementia who are still physically active but require a protective and supportive environment. It will also care for those who require varying levels of nursing care through to end of life palliative care. It's a new way of caring, in a unique dementia-friendly environment.

It will offer a 24-hour residential and nursing service in a comfortable and supported environment with 64 en-suite rooms, each one equipped to give residents maximum opportunity and independence.

It is anticipated that work on the build will commence late 2014 with the home open for the first residents in 2015.

To make a donation towards Copelands please [click here](#)

- See more at: <http://www.irishmethodist.org/news/28-february-2014/buy-brick-brighter-future-people-dementia#sthash.fDQQ6Snd.dpuf>



FACING UP TO CLIMATE CHANGE NOW A NATIONAL ISSUE

Churches in Ireland urged to take action against climate change

A Scottish environmentalist, author and broadcaster is calling on churches in Ireland to take action against climate change in light of the recent “unprecedented” weather.

Dr Alastair McIntosh was speaking yesterday evening at an Eco-Congregation Ireland event in Belfast, which drew clergy and lay people across a number of denominations.

McIntosh, who is Fellow of the Centre for Human Ecology in Glasgow and a regular contributor to Radio Ulster’s *Sunday Sequence* programme, told the gathering at Fitzroy Presbyterian Church that the recent storms that hit Ireland and the UK were consistent with Met Office expectations of “more extreme events as a result of climate change”.

“This is why, as the Labour party leader in Britain put it recently, facing up to climate change is now a national security issue,” he said before going on to say that each one of us must consider what our response will be when our grandchildren ask us, “What did you do in the climate change wars?”

McIntosh called on churches to lead the way in taking practical action and asking what can be done to defuse our consumerist lifestyle, which

was one of the main drivers of greenhouse gas emissions to the environment.

"The task before us is to be participants in the healing of the nations, of the earth and of our churches," said McIntosh. "These tasks are all one."

McIntosh talked about how the work of eco-congregations should be understood not just about the environment in any narrow sense, but about life on earth and the life of the undivided church in the broadest senses that can give life to all, irrespective of our denominations.

Eco-Congregation Ireland chairman, Rev Andrew Orr, said McIntosh's message was vital for churches today. "We cannot and should not remain silent in the face of the damage being done to God's creation," he said. "Alastair's inspiring presence and profound message will help congregations to catch the vision and to take practical action to care for the earth."

Rev Steve Stockman, Minister of Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, was delighted to welcome McIntosh to Belfast, saying he "bursts with eccentric genius and charismatic inspiration. He grabs any light he can find from every quarter he can reach and shines the possibility of saving the world across our bleak horizon."

To find out more about Eco-Congregation Ireland, see www.ecocongregationireland.com.



€10m CORK SPIRITUAL CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

A building that once housed the 18th century South Presentation Convent and School is to be transformed into a €10m visitor centre and “a sacred space for contemplation” in the heart of Cork City.

Irish Examiner - The Presentation Sisters have won enormous praise for their Nano Nagle Centre at Ballygriffin on the Blackwater which, with its unique blend of heritage, spirituality and ecology, attracts thousands of visitors from around the world.

The global order hope their plans for the 3.75 acre “sacred site”, which includes their founder, Nano Nagle's grave and ample gardens, will ensure it too becomes a must-see on the Cork City Historic Tourist Trail.

Last year, Pope Francis announced that Nano Nagle was a woman of heroic virtue and declared her to be “venerable”, placing her on the second of the four steps to Sainthood.

Nano Nagle founded the Presentation Sisters order at Douglas Street on Christmas Eve in 1775 in response to the dire poverty and lack of education that she saw around her. Its ethos inspired the establishment of several other religious orders in Ireland, including the Presentation Brothers and the Christian Brothers.

The new complex is to be called Nano Nagle Place and is “seeking to preserve the heritage, ethos and philosophy of Nano Nagle”. It will include a heritage centre, an archive building and a garden coffee shop alongside Nano Nagle’s tomb. The project is being fully funded by the order.

Minister for Arts and Heritage Jimmy Deenihan attended the launch on Douglas St and spoke warmly of the Presentation Sisters and their “unselfish contribution to this country”.

More at -

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/orders-sacred-site-to-become-10m-centre-of-spirituality-259648.html>



HOSPICE SPONSORED WALKS

Northern Ireland Hospice’s Vice President Olivia Nash, is encouraging the community to ‘Walk with Hospice’ and make miles of difference by supporting the charities 2014 Hospice Walk.

The Hospice Walk offers participants a choice of ten different stunning walk locations across Northern Ireland, one of which is a five mile walk starting from the Antrim Forum Leisure Centre at 10am on Saturday April 12.

This year Northern Ireland Hospice hopes to raise £110,000 from this event, which will be used to support the provision of hospice care services for people living with terminal illnesses as well as offering support to their families. All care is given free of charge and is provided 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Each year the Hospice walk event attracts thousands of people of all ages and abilities who walk from 1.5 miles to 9 miles to raise sponsorship money

for the charity. This year the 10 walk routes across NI are being sponsored by Creightons of Finaghy, Kilwaughter Chemical Company Ltd, and Mauds Ice Cream.

“Every pound donated or raised will make a difference” says Olivia Nash “As Vice President for Northern Ireland Hospice I am delighted to be part of this annual event. By committing to walk for hospice and getting sponsored, you will be making a big difference to the lives of local people living with cancer or other life-limiting illnesses in our community. For example by raising £30 you could pay for an hour of specialist nursing care for a patient being cared for at hospice. So come on walk with us and bring your family and friends for a great day out.”

You can register to take part in the Hospice Walk online at www.nihospice.org or calling the fundraising office on [028 9077 7123](tel:02890777123).



LEGION OF MARY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO WORK WITH THE HOMELESS IN BELFAST.

The Legion of Mary runs two hostels in Belfast.

One is Morning Star House in Divis Street in Belfast. It looks after men with very complex needs, such as homelessness coupled with alcohol, drug use and mental health problems. The other is Regina Coeli hostel in Lake Glen in Belfast. It looks after women with a range of social, mental health and addiction issues who are homeless.

The Legion of Mary seeks volunteers, both men and women, aged over 18 who are of a mature temperament, who are practising Catholics, to become a member of the Legion of Mary and give support and help to those who need help in the hostels. Typically this involves around 4 hours per week and in the evening time. Full training and support will be provided.

For further information please call Marie on [07895149683](tel:07895149683)



PCI MISSIONARY SPEAKER

Naomi Leremore, along with her husband Thomas and their two sons, are due to be in Ireland from Sunday 23rd March to Sunday 27th April.

[Naomi](#) serves with the Sunday School Department of the **[Presbyterian Church of East](#)**

Africa(PCEA) focusing, through the Curriculum Committee, on the revision of Sunday School materials.

She has also been involved in developing curriculum for Theological Education by Extension.

Although, Naomi is **fully booked for Sunday services**(apart from Easter Sunday evening 20th April), she has a number of other free dates in her diary.

Naomi is happy to speak at **PWs, Midweeks, Home Groups** or other church-based meetings.

She is particularly keen to speak to **children**,for example at **children's meetings in churches** (BBs, GBs, Guides and Scouts, etc) and also at **school assemblies / Scripture Union meetings**.

If you would like to make a booking for Naomi, please contact **Beverley** in the [Mission Overseas Office](#) as soon as possible.



NEW CHILDRENS MINISTRY WEB SITE

The C of I Sunday School Society and Children's Ministry Network (CMN) have come together to launch a new website for children's ministry.

The Church of Ireland Children's Ministry website was launched yesterday, Monday February 24, and is full of useful information for anyone involved in children's ministry.

The website, which can be found at www.cm.ireland.anglican.org, has information about the Sunday School Society and the Children's Ministry Network and news of events being run by both organisations, locally and nationally.

However, additional information on resources and supplementary materials is also available. There are sections on Sunday School books and curriculum, crafts, creative prayer, music and action stories and Lectionary resources among others.

Those working in the area of children's ministry are also encouraged to contribute their own teaching and learning ideas through the children's ministry Facebook page.

The website was launched at a Children's Ministry Network event where representatives were addressed by Mary Hawes, Church of England National Going for Growth (Children and Youth) Adviser.

The Sunday School Society's children's ministry development officer, Lydia Monds, explained that the new website represented a coming together of the sites of the Sunday School Society and the Children's Ministry Network.

"The site is a work in progress but we wanted it to be ready for Lent so that people could go to it for ideas for Lent and Easter," she stated. "We also hope that people share their ideas and resources on our Facebook page so that you can be proactive in passing on information."

Secretary of the Children's Ministry Network, the Revd Anne Taylor, paid tribute to the work that Lydia had done since her appointment in particular reinvigorating the website.



WORSHIP RESOURCES SEARCH

Corrymeela's Community Life Committee is assembling a worship resource for Corrymeela's 50th anniversary.

"As part of the process we want to gather resources that have been used by members, associates and friends for worship in the Croi. If you have any ideas, outlines, plans or liturgies that you have used over the years, please consider sending them to us so that we can use them as building blocks for this new resource. Send your contributions to andrewgarnett@corrymeela.org

"Please indicate if you would be happy for your material to be edited, and let us know if the material is not your own as we may need to check copyright. Thank you!"



TUAM YOUTH CAMINO

Youth pilgrimage to Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

There will be a meeting for anyone (18+yrs) who would like to travel on the Camino youth pilgrimage this summer. It will be an information evening, held in the Cúram, Claremorris [on Friday Feb 21st at 8pm](#). The meeting is open to anyone in the Tuam Archdiocese aged

between 18 -35 yrs, who might be interested in this walking pilgrimage into Santiago. Places will be limited. Further information contact Trish [09352284](tel:09352284)/ trishobrienyouth@gmail.com



CORRYMEELA WALKS FOR PEACE IN LENT

Rathlin Walk - **Tuesday 4th March** (Shrove Tuesday) - Meet at the Rathlin Ferry terminal by 10.15am to catch the 10.30am ferry, approx. 8 mile walk - return on the 4pm ferry.

Lagan Towpath - **Tuesday 25th March** - Meet at St Polycarp's Church, Finaghy at 9.30am - approx. 8 mile walk.

Roe Valley Country Park - **Tuesday 1st April** - Meet at the Carrick Rocks Church of Ireland at 10:30am and finish at St Mary's RC Church, Limavady. The Walk will take approx. 3 hours.

For more information and to register, please contact Richard Naylor Tel: [079 6877 0343](tel:07968770343) or email: naylor.ra@gmail.com

Voluntary donations may be made through [Just Giving](#).



OLD HYMNS IN NEW WAYS

Following on from the Big Sing event in spring 2013, the Worship Panel of PCI will be presenting another workshop and resource day for singers and musicians on incorporating the great hymns of the faith in a variety of fresh musical ways.

Date: [26/04/2014 10:00 AM](#). **Location:** Assembly

Buildings, Belfast

To register your interest contact Laura Whitcroft in the BMI office by phoning [\(028\) 9032 2284](tel:02890322284) or emailing lwhitcroft@presbyterianireland.org



YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO TAIZE

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin is hoping to organise a youth pilgrimage to Taizé this year and is calling for young people from other traditions to join them.

The pilgrimage is open to 16 to 30 year olds who will gather with over 2,000 other young Christians from around the world at the ecumenical monastery in Burgundy, France. They will experience the prayer and fellowship of the community founded by Brother Roger.

The pilgrimage will take place from Sunday June 29 to Sunday July 6 and will cost €420 which will include return flights from Dublin to Lyon, coach transfer to Taizé, a contribution to the community for food and accommodation, and travel insurance.

To express an interest in travelling contact the Office for Evangelisation & Ecumenism on evangelisation@dublindiocese.ie by Sunday March 9. The closing date for a deposit of €100 is April 18.

For further details see www.evangelisation.ie. For more information on Taize have a look at www.taize.fr.



C of I THEOLOGY WEEKEND

A total of forty-two students are in attendance at the C of I Theological Institute over the course of this weekend for the commencement of two further training courses.

Twenty-three men and women from nine dioceses will be embarking on the one year Foundation Course programme, whilst nineteen will start the second cycle of reader training lasting for two years. The weekend, entitled 'Fit for the Purpose', takes as its theme a biblical and personal exploration of various matters to do with vocation. The main facilitators are Dr Christina Baxter, former Principal of St. John's College, Nottingham, Rev Dr Andy Angel, Vice Principal of St. John's and Director of Extension Studies, and Rev Dr Maurice Elliott, Director of CITI.



EVENTS AND SERVICES

This evening (Saturday) in St Patrick's cathedral, Armagh, Voices Together will present 'A World of Song'.

This concert is sponsored by the Armagh Cathedrals Partnership which links the city's two cathedrals.

Tomorrow (Sunday) morning the Bishop of Meath & Kildare will preach in St Ann's church, Dublin, at a service when the proceeds of the Black Santa Sit

Out will be distributed. Among the charities to benefit will be the St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, Protestant Aid, Simon Community, Solas Project and the Laura Lynn Foundation. In the Chapel of Trinity College the address in the Golden Rule series at the 10.45 Choral Eucharist, will be given by Swami Purananda who will speak about the Golden Rule in Hinduism.

On Tuesday a new series of lunchtime lectures begins in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, at 1.05pm. 'Introducing Christ Church' will begin with a lecture by Canon Kenneth Kearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, who will speak on 'What are cathedrals for?' Subsequent speakers will be the cathedral's Director of Music, Ian Keatly, the historian, Professor Raymond Gillespie, and Canon Roy Byrne who will talk about the Christ Church silver collection.



GIVE WOMEN MORE INFLUENCE IN CHURCH - McALEESE

Bishops should be encouraged not to be “yes men” but “leaders who can speak freely”, who consult with rank-and-file Catholics and then make decisions along with the pope

Irish Times - Bishops should be encouraged not to be “yes men” but “leaders who can speak freely”, who consult with rank-and-file Catholics and then make decisions along with the pope, she said.

Senior church leaders have “until now” believed the church could only survive through “unquestioning obedience to the exclusively top-down teaching magisterium.

“That tight-grip approach has had very damaging consequences for the church in the modern world”, she said, in a lecture on church governance to



the Van Hugel Institute in Cambridge last night.

The pope could give a synod of bishops decision-making powers even though “no pope has ever done so and Pope Benedict is on record as being against doing so. Yet this is by far the most straightforward way of creating at least an embryonic form of collegial episcopal decision-making in the Catholic Church, she said.

The “most exciting” way of bringing about reform would be to give a direct voice to each bishop, where issues would be decided by a majority canvassed by post or email.

Meanwhile, rank-and-file Catholics must also be involved: “The absence of laity and in particular women from ecclesial decision-making and high-level spheres of influence is a line that cannot hold; in fact it is a line that is rapidly leaching trust and credibility.”

Pope Francis has “openly acknowledged” the problem that exists, but he has not yet put forward “any practical solutions”, said Mrs McAleese, who was a professor of law at Trinity College and who has been studying canon law in Dublin and Rome.

Bishops have already displayed an appetite for change and the “noisy, messy, argumentative church” envisaged by Pope John XXIII in the Vatican Council in the 1960s. Such a healthy, vibrant debate would see a Catholic Church “engaged in active listening and talking top-down, sideways and bottom-up, unafraid of bad news, unafraid of healthy debate”.

Pope Francis had arrived “from Argentina with a blowtorch in his suitcase”, but it was difficult to know if “the charismatic and popular Francis has time on his side. His refreshing approach seems to have slowed the tide of cynicism, but whether he can turn the tide remains to be seen,” she said, in a speech entitled “Church Governance – The Imperative of Collegiality ”.